

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: ILO : DEMARCHE TO CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF LABOR

REFS A. STATE 102699 B. STATE 103404 C. STATE 104945

D. STATE 121552 E. PRAGUE 1259

1. SUMMARY: I CALLED ON CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF LABOR MICHAL STANCEL MAY 27 TO CONVEY UNITED STATES POSITION REGARDING I.L.O. AND FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. MEETING TOOK PLACE IN CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE, BUT LEFT NO DOUBT CZECHOSLOVAKS

PLAN TO DEFER TO SOVIETS AT ILC, DESPITE THEIR EXPRESSED WISH FOR BETTER

COOPERATION WITH U.S. DELEGATION. MINISTER PROVIDED NAMES OF CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATES. END SUMMARY.

2. STANCEL WELCOMED ME AS ONE FORMER-TRADE-UNION-OFFICIAL-TURNED-GOVERNMENT-EMPLOYEE TO ANOTHER. STRESSING MY OWN EXPERIENCE IN

LABOR MOVEMENT AND U.S. INTEREST IN I.L.O., AND EMPHASIZING ILO IMPORTANCE AS A TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION, I OUTLINED U.S. OBJECTIONS TO 1) POLITICIZATION OF I.L.O. MEETINGS FOR SHORT-TERM GOALS, AND 2)

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DISREGARD FOR TRIPARTITE PRINCIPLE AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, BUT NOTED SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE NOVEMBER, 1975 LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. CITING AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 AS CRITICAL CONFERENCE ISSUE, I STRESSED THAT 63RD ILC WOULD BE CRUCIAL FOR UNITED STATES IN MAKING OUR FINAL DECISION ABOUT CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP

3. FLANKED BY DEP. MIN. OF LABOR KISELY AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR EXPERT MOLKOVA, VOTH OF WHOM WILL ATTEND ILC, STANCEL, A RUDDY-COMPLEXIONED AND HOSPITABLE SLOVAK, WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. NOTING THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD BE ATTENDING ILC FROM JUNE 6-13, HE PROCEEDED TO GIVE CZECHOSLOVAK POSITION ON ILO. HE POINTED OUT WITH PRIDE THAT WHEREAS CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BEEN A FOUNDING MEMBER OF ILO (1919), UNITED STATES JOINED ONLY IN 1934; FURTHERMORE, UNITED STATES HAD RATIFIED ONLY 7 CONVENTIONS IN 1977, WHEREAS CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD RATIFIED A TOTAL OF 47. CZECHOSLOVAKIA THEREFORE CONSIDERS HERSELF TO BE AN "ACTIVE" MEMBER OF THE I.L.O.; NONETHELESS, CSSR DEFERS TO THE "DECISIVE" MEMBER STATES (E.G., USSR AND USA) TO TAKE LEAD IN ILO AND SEE TO IT THAT BASIC MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION IS PURSUED. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT SHOULD

BE READ TO MEAN GOC DEL WILL TAKE SAME POSITION AS SOVIET DEL AND IS LIKELY TO ACT AS STRONG PROPONENT OF THAT POSITION. END COMMENT. STANCEL RECOGNIZED GREAT DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL SYSTEM AND CONDITIONS AS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES, AND I.L.O. AS FORUM IN WHICH ALL NATIONS COULD CONSIDER QUESTIONS TOUCHING ON WELFARE OF WORKING PROPLE. ALL COUNTRIES, HE SAID, WERER RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING WITHING I.L.O. THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS, BUT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO PREVENT A MEMBER FROM AIRING ITS OPINIONS, AND IN PRESENT

WORLD CONDITIONS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT MANY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES INVOLVE POLITICAL ONES. I INTERRUPTED STANCEL AT THIS POINT TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT SHY FROM POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN THE PROPER FORUM, BUT THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND TREATED IN THE I.L.O. AS A MIDDLE EAST ISSUE, BUT AS AN I.L.O. QUESTION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USING PROPER I.L.O. PROCEDURES AND RESPECTING DUE PROCESS. STANCEL SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THIS POINT, AND ALSO MY ADVOCACY OF U.S.-SPONSORED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17 OF I.L.O. CONSTITUTION.

4. THE LABOR MINISTER NEXT DESCRIBED HOW TRIPARTITE SYSTEM IS APPLIED

TO SELECTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK I.L.O. DELEGATION: GOVERNMENT DELEGATES COME FROM MINISTRY OF LABOR OR FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS YEAR THEY WILL BE:

MILOSLAV RUZEK, CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO U.N. AGENCIES IN GENEVA;

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOR, ING. KISELY, A SLOVAK IN CHARGE OF ILO AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY (KISELY WILL ATTEND ENTIRE CONFERENCE);

DAGMAR MOLKOVA, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IN MINISTRY OF LABOR, WHO SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE.

"WORKER" DELEGATES ARE SELECTED FROM PARTY-CONTROLLED TRADE UNIONS.

"WORKER" DELEGATE TO 63RD ILC WILL BE:

VILIAM KOZIK, SECRETARY OF CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

"EMPLOYER" DELEGATES, SELECTED FROM CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL BE:

DR. ZDENEK TESAR, REPRESENTING CZECHOSLOVAK AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY
ING. ZDENEK MEKINA, DIRECTOR OF TRINEC STEEL MILL, ALTERNATE

5. NOTING THAT HIS ASSISTANTS MOLKOVA AND KISELY HAD ATTENDED PREVIOUS I.L.C.'S AND WOULD BE ATTENDING 63RD ILC, LABOR MINISTER COMPLAINED THAT WHILE PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK AND AMERICAN DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN GOOD (ONE U.S. DELEGATE HAD A CZECH GRANDMOTHER), U.S. DELEGATION HAD BEEN "VERY HARSH" IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HAD POSED "TOO MANY QUESTIONS OF A POLITICAL OR PHILOSOPHICAL NATURE." LABMIN REPEATEDLY PLEADED FOR BETTER TREATMENT FROM U.S. DELEGATION TO 63RD I.L.C., POINTING OUT THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE POINTS ON WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN BE CRITICIZED, SUCH PHENOMENA --A VIELED REFERENCE TO DIFFERING ATTITUDES ON HUMAN RIGHTS--"COULD OCCUR ELSEWHERE." HE ENDED ON A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITIVE NOTE,SAYING THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT LECTURE US ON OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, HE HOPED WE WOULD NOT WITHDRAW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE I.L.O. AS SUCH A MOVE MIGHT CAUSE OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT.

6. I ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT U.S. DELEGATION WOULD DOUBTLESS WELCOME

CONSULTATION WITH CZECHOSLOVAKS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, BUT WARNED HIM THAT OUR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE I.L.O. DEPENDED ON THE I.L.O.'S LIVING UP TO ITS CONSTITUTION. AS FOR THE QUESTION OF THE I.L.O. STRUCTURE, ANOTHER POINT LABMIN RAISED, THE UNITED STATES PREFERRED TO LET HOT ISSUES COOL OFF, MOVE ON THOSE WHERE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE AND ADDRESS THE "STRUCTURE" ISSUE IN NOVEMBER.

7. I INFORMED LABOR MINISTER STANCEL OF COMPOSITION OF U.S. DELEGATION. MINISTER ASKED WHEN U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL MIGHT BE ATTENDING ILC. WE COULD ANSWER ONLY THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS A POSSIBILITY. YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION IF AND WHEN DATES ARE FIRMED UP.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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